



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-005 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 01/15/2016
Allegation: Making False Statement
Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

This is an internal complaint that was filed against a detective for spreading a false rumor about his lieutenant.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs interviewed a Spokane Police Department (SPD) witness detective and a Spokane County Sheriff (SCO) witness detective.

The SPD detective said that he was approached by another SPD detective and was told that the lieutenant was pressuring a Spokane County Prosecutor to drop the charges in the Sergeant Gately case. The SPD witness detective did not know why the detective told him this. SPD witness detective then had a conversation with another detective, because he knew that he was friends with the prosecutor. The witness detective said that the friend detective called the prosecutor who denied having a conversation with the lieutenant. The witness detective said that he reported this rumor to his lieutenant.

Internal Affairs contacted the SCO witness sergeant. He stated that he and his lieutenant had a conversation with the prosecutor after he heard this rumor from his SCO witness detective. He said that the prosecutor denied having contact with the lieutenant and that the rumor was false.

The investigator then interviewed SCO witness detective. That detective said that he was at property when he was approached by detective making the allegation, who told him that the lieutenant was trying to pressure the prosecutor to drop charges in the Gately case.

The Internal Affairs investigator contacted the sergeant and lieutenant of the accused detective's unit and verified that the detective had not attempted to report this to them. They both confirmed that he had not. The investigator intended to interview the accused detective making the false statement. The detective was sent a notice requesting an interview; however, he retired prior to submitting to the interview and did not respond to the notice.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The case was administratively suspended. The information gathered from witnesses indicated that any rumors being spread on this issue were false.